



Top o' the Mornin'

—By TOM PHILLIPS—

Mom Goes to Washington; She's Proud of Joey's Desk

It took over one and one-half years to induce or entice Mom to go to Washington. But, she's been there and she's glad. "I'm going back again when it comes Joey's time to preside over the Senate," she said.

Mom, of course, is Mrs. Joseph R. Biden Sr., Scranton's former Gene Finnegan, some time called, "Kitty," and Joey of course is her son, Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., also a Scranton native, now representing the sovereign state of Delaware in the Upper House of Congress.

It wasn't easy to get Mom to take the hour's ride from her home in Wilmington to Washington. He son, the Senator, who took office as the youngest member of that body in January, 1973, had been urging her frequently to make the trip. He not only invited her, he persisted, importuned and used virtually every means of persuasion short of demanding, that she visit the Capitol and Washington. He wanted to give his mother a tour of the seat of government, especially the Senate. And, with understanding pardonable pride he wanted to give the Senators a first hand view of his Mom, who is something for a first-hand view.

Mom was wont to say: "Now, Joey, I'll get down there as soon as I have time. I promise you." But, "as-soon-as-I-have-time just wasn't happening.

However, the family, early in August was vacationing at Rehoboth Beach on Delaware Bay. The Senator arrived from Washington for an overnight visit. It was the night of Aug. 8. President Nixon has given up the Presidency; Vice President Ford was to take office the next day, and he was to address a joint session of the Congress.

"Mom, this is an historic occasion," the Senator said. "You've promised me frequently you would visit Washington. I think now is the time. I'm returning to the Capital for President Ford's address. It's a once-in-a-lifetime event. I want you to come with me." He had her off balance!

"Joey I'm on vacation, I haven't got a dress with me for such an occasion . . ." she was saying, when she was interrupted:

"I'll buy one for the occasion when we get to Washington," her son promptly said. And then added: "That's settled, we leave in the morning."

And thus it was that after one and one-half year's Mom went to Washington.

"It was wonderful," she said. "We have a great government . . . We have great men running the government.

"President Ford was wonderful . . . he gave me and everybody near me and those I met . . . great hope," she commented.

for the President's address. She or the President's address. She was seated in the third row of the House gallery. "Just behind the first family," she said, "The President has a lovely family."

Mom was impressed! There was Fishbait Miller announcing: "The President of the United States!"

"You know it did something to my blood stream. We often use that word thrill rather loosely, but when Fishbait spoke and the President walked down the aisle the word 'thrill' is an understatement," she said.

"Of course, I found it very stirring, and I was very proud, when Fishbait announced: 'The Senate of the United States,' and the 100 senators of the 50 state marched into the well of the House. They walked in pairs, and Joey walked with Senator Goldwater. He's a handsome man, and a strong character," she added.

When the President completed his address to the Congress and the nation, Mom retired from the gallery and joined her son in the Senate lobby. "Everybody was so gracious, and that Teddy Kennedy, he's delightful, he remembered me from the Delaware campaign when he toured the state for Joey. He gave me a real bear hug and said: 'Mom you've stayed away too long. I'm glad you made it.'"

Bob Hough, a deputy sergeant-at-arms of the Senate had escorted Mom to the House gallery, and after the renewal of acquaintances in the Senate gallery, he invited her to take a tour of the Senate chamber.

"Mr. Hough pointed out the desks of many of the distinguished members. It was impressive. He came to one desk and said: 'The occupant of this desk will make history of the future. It's the desk of Senator Biden.' I didn't cry, but I could have. Then he lifted the top of the desk, you know they're like we use to have in school, and there were carved the names of 21 senators. The last name was Joseph R. Biden Jr."

"Of the 21 names carved in the desk," she said, there were eight from the State of Delaware. Six of them had the name of Bayard. The Bayard family surely represented Delaware a long time. And then there was the home of a Senator Tunnell. Delaware had squatter's rights on that desk."

At that point, Mom explained, "I thought the grand tour of the Senate chamber was ended, but



Mrs. Joseph R. Biden Sr. . . . took an hour's ride

It wasn't. The young man took me to the rostrum where the presiding officer sits. He invited me to be seated in the chair; I was hesitant, then he insisted. I sat in the chair."

He told me: "This is the chair that your son at times sits in when he temporarily presides over the Senate as all senators do from time to time in the absence of the Vice President who is the President of the Senate and its presiding officer. The seat was comfortable, it was a beautiful chair," she remarked.

Mom was relating his historic visit to the writer over Ma Bell's communication system at rates that could attain a total charge that also would be impressive, when she added:

"Joey took me the next day to a beautiful Italian restaurant. They call it Marchocho's, I think. The food was good, but not as good as at Preno's in Scranton. You know Preno's in Scranton serves the best Italian food in the County, and Russell Preno still makes his spaghetti sauce according to his mother's recipe. It can't be beaten," she insisted. I'm sure Russell won't disagree.

"Well, mom, now that you broke the ice, (using an old cliché) you should visit the Senator in Washington, often," she was told.

"I intend," Mom assuredly said, "I'm going to wait until some day when Joey will be presiding and I'll take Beau (Joseph III) and Hunter with me (Beau and Hunter are the Senator's two young sons, 5 and 4 years old respectively.)"

They're getting to the age that they'll be impressed, she declared.

To be sure, Mom was impressed with President Ford, the Senate chamber, Washington and the Italian restaurant.

Was she impressed with her son, the Senator?

Well, not really. Mothers are not impressed with distinguished sons. Proud? To be sure! Mom is proud of Joey, even though he's the bottom name on the seniority list of 100 members of the august United State Senate. He's the youngest member at age 31, but we'll go along with Bob Hough, that from the desk of Senator Biden history will be made.

We like to refer to him as Pennsylvania's third senator!

Alcohol Seminar Set by Council

The first statewide Labor Management Conference on Industrial Alcoholism will be held September 10 at the Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. The conference, which is sponsored by the Governor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Governor Milton J. Shapp will deliver the luncheon address on the state's position in the Industrial Alcoholism Program. Among others scheduled to address the conference are, Dr. Richard E. Horman, executive director of the Governor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Harry Boyer, president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO; Representative Pat Crawford (R-Chester), of the House Health and Welfare Committee, Commonwealth Pleas Court Judge Paul Bannridge, Patrick Greene, Director of Community Services for the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and Dr. Lawrence J. Mellon, M.D. of Boeing-Vertol, Philadelphia.

FOUNTAIN DEDICATED

PITTSBURGH (UPI) —The \$3 million fountain at Point State Park was officially dedicated Friday when Mrs. Arthur Van Buskirk pushed a button and sent a geyser of water skyward.

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